

**CLAIMS AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended) A supportive spring base for, ~~in particular,~~ a mattress for a place to sleep and/or recline, the supportive spring base having a plurality of spring slats running at a parallel distance to one another, and having longitudinal struts which run transversely with respect to the spring slats and belong, ~~in particular,~~ to a frame, the spring slats being mounted with their end regions on the longitudinal struts, characterized by connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) for connecting at least two spring slats (10) in each case.
2. (original) The supportive spring base as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are of at least partially elastic design for transmitting at least part of the movement of a particular spring slat (10) to at least one preferably adjacent spring slat (10).
3. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that vertical compressive deflections of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) and/or spring slats (10) are at least partially transmitted to adjacent spring slats (10) by the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35), and ~~preferably~~ one particular connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35) is arranged between two adjacent, parallel spring slats (10).
4. (currently amended) The supporting spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are mounted, in particular elastically and/or in an articulated manner, on at least two different spring slats (10).
5. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 25) are mounted on the spring slats (10) in such a manner that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35, 37) are movable relative to the spring slats (10) both in a rotational and translational manner.

6. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have at least one spring element which is preferably designed as a bellows (33, 36), a spring plate and/or an elastic wing (14).

7. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The supportive spring base ~~for, in particular, a mattress for a place to sleep and/or recline, in particular~~ as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have spring elements, load-bearing means (15, 34) and/or suspension devices (16, 18) for connecting the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) to the spring slats (10).

8. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The supportive spring base ~~for, in particular, a mattress for a place to sleep and/or recline, in particular~~ as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) have suspension devices (16, 18) which can be rotated relative to the spring slats (10), ~~preferably~~ about a longitudinal axis of the particular spring slat (10), and in that the suspension devices (16, 18) are additionally ~~preferably~~ movable in a translational manner ~~which~~ with respect to the spring slats (10).

9. (currently amended) The supportive spring base, ~~in particular~~ as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that at least one suspension device (16) of the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35) is assigned at least one locking device (24) which fixes the particular connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35) nondisplaceably in the longitudinal direction of at least one spring slat (10), ~~preferably~~ in a frictional and/or non-positive manner, and/or the or each locking device (24) is connected flexibly to the particular connecting element (13, 31, 32, 35), ~~in particular~~ namely the load-bearing means (15, 34) of the same, ~~preferably~~ in such a manner that the or each locking device (24) does not substantially impair the mobility of the suspension devices (16, 18).

10. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the spring slats (10), ~~preferably all of the spring slats (10),~~ are connected by a connecting element (37) ~~preferably~~ having a plurality of continuous strands (39), the strands (39) ~~preferably~~ running in a direction deviating from the longitudinal direction of the spring slats, ~~preferably and~~ extending transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction of the spring slats (10).

11. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) run parallel to one another at ~~preferably~~ identical distances, the distances between the strands (39) ~~preferably~~ being smaller than the distances between the spring slats (10).

12. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are of elastic design, and ~~preferably~~ consist ~~entirely or~~ at least for the most part of plastic.

13. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are ~~preferably~~ connected to the spring slats (10) at the point at which they extend over the spring slats (10).

14. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 12, characterized in that, in the regions between the spring slats (10), the strands (39) can be changed in respect of their elastic properties by means of inserts and/or attachments, ~~in particular~~ and can be provided with greater stiffness.

15. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 10, characterized in that the strands (39) are connected by transverse strands (40), and the strands (39) and the transverse strands (40) are ~~preferably~~ connected to one another, ~~in particular~~ integrally, at their crossing points to form a net (38).

16. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 15, characterized in that the net (38) is connected to the spring slats (10) in the region of transverse strands (40), which extend over the spring slats (10), ~~preferably~~ by means of releasable, ~~if appropriate~~ elastic clamps (41).

17. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 15, characterized in that the net (38) can be stiffened by means of inserts and/or attachments between the spring slats (10) in order to change the coupling to the spring slats (10), and/or at least areas of the net (38) are provided with ~~springs, in particular~~ disk springs.

18. (currently amended) The supportive spring base as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 15, characterized in that the connecting elements (13, 31, 32, 35), ~~in particular~~ and the net (38), are of such elastic design that the supportive spring base can be rolled up.